

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02

PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 SCS-03 FBO-02 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /091 W

-----250814Z 104933 /20

Z 250735Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4485

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FLASH

AMEMBASSY ATHENS FLASH

JCS WASHDC FLASH

OSD WASHDC FLASH

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON FLASH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, MARR ET

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF KAGNEW

1. AT 0830 HOURS LOCAL APO AND OIC MET WITH EPMG DELEGATION TO DISCUSS THE CLOSURE OF KAGNEW AND THE TRANSFER OF USG PROPERTY. I SET OUT HERE IN OUTLINE THE MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS.

2. ATMOSPHERE: THE TONE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS FORMAL AND RIGID, ALTHOUGH THE MOOD MELLOWED SOMEWHAT AS THE DISCUSSION PROCEEDED. THE EPMG DELEGATION WAS LED BY ATO MENGESHA, THE POLAD TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, WHO CLAIMED TO REPRESENT THE ADMINISTRATOR. HE DID MOST OF THE TALKING FOR THE EPMG WITH OCCASSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ABRAHAM MEBRATU, DIRECTOR OF MOFA.

3. FIRST IT WAS AGREED TO LIMIT THIS MEETING TO THE SUBJECT OF  
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KAGNEW, WHILE THE CLOSURE OF THE CONGEN WILL BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY AT A MEETING AT 1030 HOURS LOCAL. THERE WERE ASSURANCES OF MUTUAL COOPERATION WITH MENGESHA SAYING HE HOPED TO COMPLETE THE CLOSURE IN A CIVILIZED MANNER.

4. ONCE THE AMENITIES WERE FINISHED, I ONFORMED THE EPMG DEL THAT "ON INSTRUCTIONS" I PROTESTED THE TAKEOVER OF TRACT BRAVO ON APRIL

24. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE 1953 AGREEMENT AND FURTHER CONTRADICTORY TO ASSURANCES GIVEN BOTH IN ADDIS AND LOCALLY THAT THE EPMG WOULD COOPERATE FULLY IN THE CLOSURE. I STATED THAT THE MATTER WAS BEING DISCUSSED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS BOTH IN ADDIS AND WASHINGTON. MENGESHA ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROTEST, BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

5. IT WAS THEN AGREED TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON THE MOVEMENT OF KAGNEW PERSONNEL THEREBY PERMITTING THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR RESIDENCES TO PACK THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS.

6. ON THE TURNOVER OF USG PROPERTY, MENGESHA SAID HE HAD NO EXACT INSTRUCTION, BUT THAT HE WISHED TO INSPECT TRACT BRAVO AND ECHO AND CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT AS HE WAS INFORMED NO SUCH DETAILED INVENTORY EXISTS.

7. ON LOCAL EMPLOYEES, SUPERVISION OF EMPLOYEES WAS CONFERRED IMMEDIATELY TO THE EPMG. SEVERANCE PAY AND OTHER BENEFITS ARE TO BE CALCULATED BY PA&E PERSONNEL IN CONJUNCTION WITH OFFICIALS OF THE LABOR DEPT. WHO WERE IMMEDIATELY SUMMONED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS A VERY LENGTHY JOB AND WILL PROBABLY NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE ALL USG EMPLOYEES LEAVE ASMARA. FROM THAT POINT ONWARD, EMBASSY ADDIS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESOLVING THESE BENEFITS.

8. ON THE TWO CISCO EMPLOYEES ON LEAVE IN MASSAWA, MENGESHA SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED TO CO OF THE NAVAL BASE TO FLY THEM TO ASMARA TODAY VIA HELO OR OTHER AIRCRAFT.

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9. THE MOFA DIRECTOR PROMISED TO FACILITATE ALL THE EXIT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THE DEPARTURE OF USG CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS.

10. MENGESHA AGREED TO PERMIT THE SHIPMENT OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OF ALL KAGNEW EMPLOYEES FROM ASMARA AFTER AN INSPECTION BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. THE EFFECTS WILL BE ASSEMBLED AT TRACT ECHO, INSPECTED BY CUSTOMS, SEALED AND DELIVERED EITHER TO A LOCAL SHIPPING COMPANY OR DIRECTLY TO EAL FOR FORWARDING TO ONWARD ADDRESSES. FISCAL DATA IS BEING REQUESTED FOR THESE SHIPMENTS.

11. MENGESHA HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON EPMG COMPENSATION FOR USG PROPERTY OR ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EMBASSY OFFICER BEING ASSIGNED TO ASMARA TO REPRESENT THE USG ON PROPERTY TURNOVER. WAUCHOPE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** AEMR, MARR, ET, (ATO MENGESHA), (ABRAHAM MEBRATU)  
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